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Editor's Mailbox

Junction City, Kansas
April 19, 1970

Times-Virginian
Appomattox, Va. 24522

Dear Editor:

During the past weeks I have been reading about how the Appomattox County School Board has decided to "promote" Mr. Gordon Bragg to the position of athletic director. For this to happen to a man as devoted to his job as Coach Bragg, is an absurdity too great for me to any longer remain silent. As an alumnus of Appomattox High School and former student of Coach Bragg, I am writing the following account on his behalf. Why? Because of all the people who have had an influence on my life, I can point to Coach Bragg as being one of the most influential.

What kind of man is Coach Bragg? He is a HARD man ... but football is a HARD game. Who would think of "putting-out" for a nice, sweet football coach? The simple truth is if you do not put-out for Coach Bragg, you do not play. We were "chewed-out", each of us, but always for a good reason. We "tied-up", and Coach Bragg wouldn't spare words in tell us so . . . quite a bit different from a "pat of the head" or a "don't worry about it". Apparently this is the personality that the Appomattox County School Board is looking for in its varsity football coach. After graduating from Appomattox High School, I entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. There I was "chewed-out" but good; I was yelled at; I was put through physical rigors. All that time I related those hardships to my days under Coach Bragg. That pulled me through. Thanks, Coach.

What kind of man is Coach Bragg? He is a man with vision who never quits. The record book will show that the 1964 A.H.S. football squad boasted the worst record ever in Coach Bragg's career: 2 wins, 8 losses. We began that season with eight seniors, after loosing 21 members of the 1963 squad to graduation. That meant that we were starting boys who had not even "suited-up" for a varsity game before that year. But never once did I hear Coach Bragg say, "That's okay, fellows. Don't worry about losing." The low point of the season came when we were beaten by Brookville 60-0. But I didn't see Coach Bragg quit. Even though the majority of experienced players at the beginning of the season did quit, Coach Bragg was still out there each afternoon. He was determined to win with the people he had. After the last game of that season when I, having been one of the co-captains of the worst teams that Coach Bragg had coached, and the rest of the seniors still on the team were sitting around feeling pretty sorry for ourselves, a team that had such a poor record that the Lion's Club cancelled the annual football banquet, Coach Bragg stopped by and thanked each of us personally for helping him mold his future squad. This little gesture changed my feelings of having been a failure, to one of possibly having been useful to future teams. Time proved this to be true. The records for Coach Bragg's teams for the next three years were 9-1, 10-0, 9-1. Coach Bragg realized this but would never admit it. A few years later in different circumstances times were bad for me. Maybe I wasn't getting beat 60-0, but I was ready to quit. Then, each time I thought I had reached the limit, I recalled Coach Bragg who didn't believe in quitting. I didn't quit. I graduated from West Point. Thanks Coach.

What kind of man is Coach Bragg? He is a man of principle, an example to follow. When I played football under Coach Bragg he was Superintendent of his Sunday School. I cannot recall a single game that we played that we didn't start with a quiet devotion time. This was done at the direction of Coach Bragg. I can't think of a better example for anyone to follow, football player or School Board official. Thanks, Coach.

What kind of man is Coach Bragg? A hard man, a man with vision who never quits, a man of principle, an example to follow. Coach Bragg gave me and each boy who played on any of his teams that hard but essential first step in the transition from boyhood to manhood -- the ability to take criticism, even harsh criticism, and continue to accomplish a job. But Coach Bragg's concern for "his boys" didn't stop after graduation from A.H.S. For the four years which I spent at West Point, correspondence of encouragement from Coach Bragg never ceased. Just a few words like "I knew you could do it" was all it took to turn a dejected feeling into a determination to succeed.

Today I am an officer in the Army. Whatever success I may gain, I can directly contribute to two men who have helped me greatly: No. 1 - My Dad; No. 2 - Coach Bragg. It's so little to say to a man who has given me so much, but, THANKS, COACH,

Joseph R. Megginson, Jr.
2 Lt. Armor
Platoon Leader

April 27, 1970
Appomattox, Va.

Mr. Lloyd Vaughan, Editor
Times-Virginian
Appomattox, Virginia

Dear Sir:

Many of you, I am sure, share with me the disappointment in the recent decision by the Appomattox County School Board to relieve Mr. Gordon Bragg of his duties as Head Football Coach at Appomattox County High School.

In the past I have been a strong supporter of Mr. Earl Smith (Superintendent of Schools) and the local school board; so my first reaction was one of surprise and mild disappointment. However, I was still in support of the school board provided they had just reason for their action or provided they had been able to employ a better qualified coach for this position.

Having an opportunity to talk with one of the board members on April 7, 1970, I was not satisfied with the reason given. On the morning of April 8, 1970, I went to the office of Mr. Earl Smith to discuss the matter with him. After talking to Mr. Smith for some time, he called Mr. Evans (Board Chairman) into his office and the three of us continued the discussion. At the conclusion of this meeting, I was asked to appear before the entire School Board on the night of April 9.

At the meeting on April 9, a most cordial welcome was given me. Mr. Smith presented me to the board as one who could perhaps represent Mr. Bragg as well as anyone in the county because I had the opportunity to play for Coach Bragg, I had been a football official in the area for twelve years, and I had officiated some of his ball games.

At this time, I tried to get across to the board the following facts: That Coach Bragg is a winner, and an outstanding Coach who demands a spirit of keen competition from his players. He always possessed a good strong voice and he has never hesitated to express dissatisfaction to one of his players or to an official. Coach Bragg has been in Appomattox for twenty-two years and to the best of my knowledge he possesses the same desire to win, the same conduct, and the same strong voice as he did on arrival. My question to the board was, "Why the feeling now that we cannot tolerate his conduct and actions when they are not better or worse than they had been for the past twenty-two years?" The best way I can describe the boards' answer to my question is unsatisfactory. I continued to stress Coach Bragg's fine qualities and qualifications as a Coach and emphasized the importance of good coaching in scholastic competition.

At the conclusion of this meeting, I felt the board members had heard me with open minds and was quite optimistic about the possibility of their reconsidering their decision and retaining Coach Bragg as Head Football Coach.

Because of a previously planned out of town trip, I was not present when the board held a public meeting on April 10. When I returned to Appomattox on April 12 and heard what had taken place at the meeting on the 10th, my confidence in the school board went to ZERO, I cannot understand how these men can ignore public sentiment and interest so completely. I have been so hurt by the board's action that I have had no desire to discuss this any further with any Board member. I hope the board sees fit to take some action or make some public statement to restore the confidence of the people in the school administration. There is much more at stake here than Coach Bragg's job as Football Coach.

May I offer the following suggestions:

To Student Athletes: Regardless of who your coach may be, I urge you to continue your participation and support of the local sports program. You have much to gain through competition and the beginning of the action of the school board dampen your desire and willingness to participate.

To All Citizens and Sports Fans: Please continue your support of the local sports program. Your support and attendance at the games are a must if we are to have the best in the participants. We must also remember that wherever we go, our conduct reflects the spirit and character of the people of our school and community.

To The School Board: Wake Up!!!! I might also suggest that you support the local sports program with better attendance where you could observe the conduct of coaches, players, and fans and not have to rely on reports passed on to you by others. I recall some discussion in our meeting concerning the credibility of reports and charges on file.

To Coach Bragg: Regardless of the final outcome of the board's decision, I hope you will choose to remain in Appomattox and work with the young people in some capacity. The people of Appomattox will always remember and respect you for the many hours you have spent in training our young people and in working to provide a better sports program for our school and community.

Very truly yours,
Bill Jamerson

Birthday

Edward O'Brien . . . April 29
Linda Carol O'Brien ..April 9

The Pastor Speaks

Should We Teach Children to Drink Properly?

Proverbs 20:1 . . . Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

NO! Emphatically NO; for the simple reason that alcohol is an "additive chemical." True, some people are predisposed to some form of dependency. Asking some children to "control" their drinking may be asking the impossible.

This rule applies to heroin, marijuana, or to a comparatively mild sedative -- like beer. The predependent personality -- inadequate, insecure, emotionally "in conflict" -- already exists in the school classroom or church.

He is, so to speak, waiting to find his crutch. The psychotic has only to discover that alcoholic beverages "do something special" for him -- that a can of beer makes him feel "comfortable" in his beer group. From then on its a matter of time until his drinking is out of control.

Some church-related agencies are pushing this idea of teaching "control drinking" full-speed ahead. They feel that they must soft-peddle any opposition to the sale or use of alcohol if they are to be effective in helping the alcoholic.

A highly vocal segment of education, social workers, governmental agency spokemen, and liberal churchmen appear convinced that Americans are not interested in doing without the "crutch" supplied by the "drug" alcohol. Thus, they say, we must teach children to drink "properly and wisely". They appear more concerned with looking for a "safe" way to drink than in encouraging young people to simple abstain.

Undoubtly, all of these folks are honest and sincere, but we think they are wrong -- dead wrong. If any young person is led into moderate drinking then alcoholism, by following their example, woe unto them.

Granted, if a person is going to drink anyway, it is far better to drink "Moderately" rather than excessively. My point is, alcohol is a dangerous "drug" which is destroying millions of children and adults. Therefore, I cannot see the slightest bit of logic in compromising with its use to appease the powerful economic forces which benefit from its sale, or following some "egg - head" theory that has been tried, and failed, in France and elsewhere.

We are at a crossroad. Which direction will your Church go-moderation or abstinence?

Earnie W. Lucas, Pastor
Bible Baptist Church

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

A NEW MAN

Lesson for May 3, 1970

Background Scripture: Acts 9; 1-31; 11:19-30; Galatians 1: 11-17.

Devotional Reading: Phillippians 3:4-11.

In his letters, the Apostle Paul told the people in his churches that Christ had the power to make a person a "new man." If anyone should have known that, Paul was the man. When Paul was converted to Christ and began to preach and teach of his experience, the world spread quickly among the churches that there was much fear and trembling, for Paul (as Saul) had been a persecutor of the church. Was it possible that he was really changed? Was he really a new man?

One Difference

In one way he was still the same man. He was still an intense person who never did anything half-heartedly. He was still extremely intelligent and a well-educated man. He still retained his proud Jewish background, his knowledge of the Hebrew tongue (something most Jews could not claim), his Greek culture, his Roman citizenship, and his cosmopolitan ways.

Only one thing had really changed, but it was the most important thing of all. Though he was still a deeply religious man who had a deep desire to please God, the focus of this religion had changed completely. No longer was his loyalty to the law, but to Jesus Christ.

This one important exception made all the difference in his life. His intensity was now directed into a constructive channel. His whole-hearted dedication had found a worthy cause. His education, his background of diverse cultures, and his knowledge were now to be put to use for the church. In a sense he was the same person with the same high qualifications.

Yet, in another sense, he was a new man. His whole life before had been based upon the law, his desire to win God's approval by his own merit and accomplishment. Now, however, where the law had stood, there was love. He had experienced the love of Christ and knew now that one can never earn the love of God; it is freely given as a gift.

So the Church had Peace

Was he the same man? Perhaps we can put it most simply by saying that the "equipment" was the same, but the energizing force that powered that equipment was completely new. It is the force that empowers us that determines whether we are "new persons" or not, "If anyone is in Christ he is a new being" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Consider what God had accomplished in the conversion of this man Saul. He raised up someone to take the place of Stephen -- he gained an apostle. He enlisted Saul's talents for the kingdom instead of against it -- he lost one enemy. He ended persecution against the church -- he protected his church. In short, we might say that God brought to nought the evil intentions of men and accomplished his will.

It is important to note that it was God's will to end the persecution of his people. Even though he had used it to accomplish his will, to begin the mission of the church, it was not his desire to see the disciples suffer needlessly.

Three Who Helped

There was also the fearful but obedient ministry of Ananias, whose task was to tell Saul significant details of a new life in Christ. There was Barnabas, who believed in Saul when others did not, who believed in the change and became his sponsor, and was willing to risk his own safety to claim Saul as a brother for the ranks of the church.

Perhaps you are in the process of making some important decisions. (Based on outline by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Church Services.)

MOTHER'S RING

THE DESIGN IS PATENTED THE NAME IS REGISTERED

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May 10th

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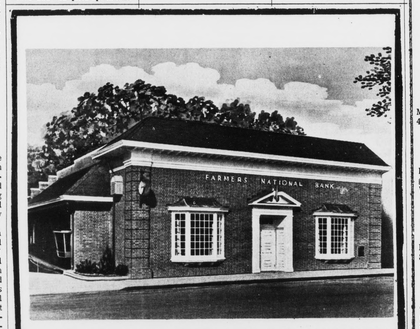

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Church Services

ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL
Lynchburg Avenue
Rev. W. J. Latta, Vicar
Holy Communion Sunday 1970
8:00 Holy Communion
9:00 Baptism

LIBERTY BAPTIST
Rev. Thomas D. Lea, Pastor
Appomattox, Virginia
SERVICES—
Sunday School -9:45 a. m.
Morning Worship-11:00 a. m.
Training Union - 6:30 p. m.
Evening Worship - 7:30 p. m.
WEDNESDAY—
Prayer Meeting-7:30 p. m.

MEMORIAL METHODIST
Church Avenue & Court St.
Rev. Alfred Eastman
Church School -9:45 a. m.
Church Sept.-Ben Wheeler
Worship - 11:00 a. m.
Methodist Youth Fellowship - 6 p. m.
Worship - 7:30 p. m.
Choir - 7:30 p. m.

RED OAK BAPTIST
Rev. Edward Hughes, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Supt. Robert Locado, Supt.
Training Union - 6:30 p.m.
Bill Williamson, Director
Evening Worship - 7:30 p.m.

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School - 10 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Evening Meeting - 6:45 p.m.
Choir Practice - 7 p.m.
Sunday Service - 7:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting (Wed) - 7:30 p.

ADVENTIST CHURCH
Rev. B. McDannell, Pastor
Sabbath School Lesson 4 for April 1970
Subject: People Can Change
Lesson: And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man, Luke 2: 52.
1 and 2 Thess. 5:1-24.
Church School - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 11 a.m.

RED OAK CHURCH
Rev. Edward Hughes, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Supt. Robert Locado - Supt.
Worship Service - 10:55 a.m.
Training Union - 6:30 p.m.
Bill Williamson - Director
Evening Adult Choir Rehearsal - 7:30 p.m.
Wed. - Christian Builders 7:30 p.m.
Wed. - Prayer and Study - 7:30 p.m.

APPOMATTOX UNITED METHODIST CIRCUIT
Rev. T. E. Jackson, Pastor
BETHEL –
10 a.m. Sunday School, Russell W. Moore, S.S. Supt.
7 p.m. M.Y.F., Mr. and Mrs. Albert Goulden, director.
MT. COMFORT –
10:15 a.m. - Sunday School O.W. Martin, S.S. Supt.
11:15 a.m. - Worship
7:00 p.m. - M.Y.F.
Thursday 7:30 p.m. - W.S.C.S.
TRINITY –
10 a.m. - Sunday School R. B. Martin, S.S. Supt.
6 p.m. - Choir Practice
7 p.m. - M.Y.F.
7:30 p.m. - Evangelistic Service with Rev. Frank James, Pastor of Lane Memorial Methodist Church, preaching.
MONDAY –
8 p.m. - Wesleyan Serv. Guild
WEDNESDAY –
8 p.m. - Bible Study & Prayer meeting

If you do not have a church home, come and share with us. Christ is the center of our fellowship.

Church Starts Kindergarten

Recently the members of the Bible Baptist Church in Appomattox, Virginia, voted unanimously to start, this fall, a Church related Kindergarten.

Mrs. Jerry Long, of Farmville, Va., will be the teacher. The Church will furnish transportation to and from the Kindergarten. The Kindergarten will be equipped with the very latest and finest in Kindergarten equipment.

The classes will begin at 9 a. m. and will last until 12:00 each day, Monday through Friday.

The charge for the Kindergarten will be $32.50 per month and if transportation is required it will be $37.50 per month.

The Church also has the finest facilities for a Kindergarten. The classrooms are equipped with nice large tables and chairs for the working area.

The members of the Church cordially invite you to inspect our facilities. For further information call 352-7817. Earnie W. Lucas is Pastor of the Church.

corso

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In Days Of Crepe de Chine

Mrs. L. B. Wheeler, correspondent for Stonewall News for the Times-Virginian, has a Chicago Mail Order House catalogue (not the familiar Sears-Roebuck) from 1922-23. The Wheelers were married in 1922, and Mrs. Wheeler ordered a beaded silk crepe de chine dress from this catalogue, "I wore that dress for years and years," said Mrs. Wheeler. The midi-length was quite in style then, as the front cover of the catalogue illustrates. Her visit to the Times office brought back memories of high top boots for $5.98, bedroom slippers at just 89¢ and other low prices not often seen in 1970.

Evangelistic Services At Trinity

There will be evangelistic services at the Trinity United Methodist Church each Sunday night during the month of May at 7:30 p.m. This is a special endeavor to deepen the spiritual life of our community. Everyone is invited to share with us as we present Jesus Christ, the hope of the world. The schedule is as follows:

May 3 – Rev. Frank James, Pastor of Lane Memorial United Methodist Church.

May 10 – Rev. John Hoke, Pastor of Pamplin Methodist Church.

May 17 – To Be Announced.

May 24 – Rev. Douglas Pillow, Pastor of Timberlake United Methodist Church.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
M. G. Stimpson, Pastor
APPOMATTOX C. H. –
Sunday School - 10 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Message: The Earth Is The Lord's
MONDAY –
Choir - 7 p.m.
Prayer - 8 p.m.
WALKER'S –
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Evening Fellowship - 7:30 p.m.
STONEWALL –
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.

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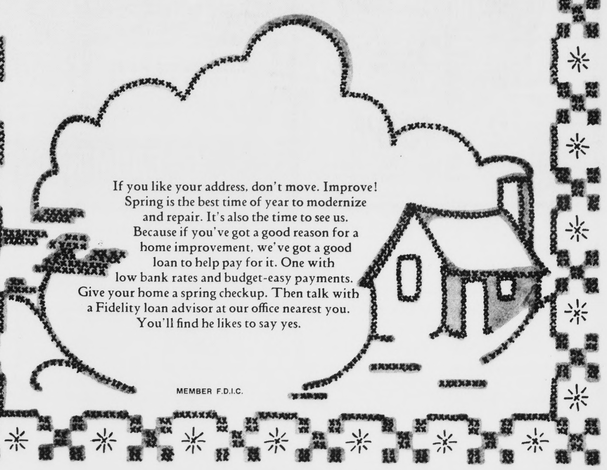

If you like your address, don't move. Improve! Spring is the best time of year to modernize and repair. It's also the time to see us. Because if you've got a good reason for a home improvement, we've got a good loan to help pay for it. One with low bank rates and budget-easy payments. Give your home a spring checkup. Then talk with a Fidelity loan advisor at our office nearest you. You'll find he likes to say yes.

MEMBER F.D.I.C.